

REMARKS:

Claims 1-6 and 10-25 are pending in this application, claims 7 - 9 have been cancelled. Independent claims 1, 15, and 25 are amended for further clarification. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, 10, 12-21, and 23-25 are again rejected over Baba et al., U.S. 4,593,953, as either anticipated or obvious. The Examiner continues to assert that Applicants' phrasology – this time, "an edge surface" – is broad enough to read on the Baba device. Applicants have amended the claims once more to make as clear as possible the surface that is being protected. In particular, it is the radially outwardly facing surface that is located between the side surfaces of the brake disc. If the Examiner contends that that language still reads on Baba, it is requested that he contact Applicants' representative by phone to discuss other, more suitable language in the interest of more efficient, economical prosecution. Otherwise, Applicants reiterate the comments set forth in their previous Response, but tailored in light of the revised phraseology.

New claims 25 and 26 have been added to recite that a substantial entirety of the edge surface of the brake disk is exposed in the open configuration. Support is found at least in Figs. 4 and 5 of the application as originally filed.

Claims 11 and 22 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims but are otherwise indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, however, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.187.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP
1000 Louisiana, Suite 5300
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 571-3400
(713) 456-2836 (fax)
tracy.druce@novakdruce.com

/tracy druce/

Tracy W. Druce, Esq.
Reg. No. 35,493